Wilmington May 9th 1879

My Dear Dr. Gray,

If you leave Boston June 2nd at 9 A.M. you will reach Washington at 6.50 A.M. of June 3rd; or if at 6 or 7 P.M. by Sound or rail as the case may be you get to Washington at 5.20 P.M. of same date. Unless you wish to stop a day in Salisbury you must leave Washing at 6.50 A.M. or 7.00 A.M. according as you go via Richmond or Lynchburg, in either case reaching Salisbury at 10.57 P.M.. If you left Washington on the morning of June 4th you would get to Salisbury the same night and to Newton on June 5th with time enough there to make arrangements for the journey of the next day to Lincolnton. This would occupy the 6th and coming back the next day the 7th of the month which I believe will be Saturday

You would either have to stay at Newton that night or go back to Statesville and spend Sunday with Hyams. Monday June 9th you would get to Marion and could come back to Morganton on the 10th if you went no farther towards Swannanoa Gap or Asheville. Now up to this time I suppose the mountain journey would have been hardly begun and no allowance is made for rainy days or other contingencies. I cannot but think that if you were to put it off for 5 or even 4 days longer that you would run serious risk of spoiling Mrs. Gray's pleasure which I take it is not to be thought of. But the two days at Lincolnton and one at ~~Morganton~~ Marion with Sunday intervening would give Sargent a chance to catch up though he would be too late for ~~Buckleya~~ Darbya. The season might make some difference and of this Hyams could tell us. Here, though rather cool for the season, the weather has been perfectly charming and we are in a gush of spring loveliness. It would be better to be a little early for the Rhododendrons than too late. [illegible] has already sent me flowering specimens of Andromeda floribunda. My vote would be decidedly in favor of ~~not~~ starting not later than the time you mention. For myself anytime after I get my family settled in the west will suit me perfectly.

My thanks for the pretty Orthocarpus. Mrs. Bidwell seems to bid well to do well at Chico. This plant is a nice acquisition.

Here is a note to Wilcox from the man who is to help us at Morganton. He ought to know something about what we want.

Ever truly Yours,

Wm. M. Canby